REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 9-10 are pending in this application. Claim 9 is independent. Claim 10 depends from claim 9.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the test apparatus includes a connection setting section, which is connected with both the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test modules. These amendments can be supported, for example, in Figures 1 and 2 and the accompanying text of the present application.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,754,868 issued to Bristow et al. ("Bristow"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a method for testing devices under test (hereinafter, "DUTs") in parallel with control apparatuses by utilizing a connection setting section between them. Independent claim 9, as amended, requires, in part, *a connection setting section* for switching topology of the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test

modules. Independent claim 9 further requires, in part, the connection setting section *connected with both the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test modules.*

According to switching topology which defines how the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test modules are switched, the connection setting section can connect the plurality of control apparatuses with the plurality of test modules flexibly without rearrangement of the testing system. In one embodiment of the invention as shown in Figure 1, the plurality of control apparatuses **130a, 130b, ... , 130h** can be connected through the connection setting section **140** with the test modules **150a, 150b, ... , 150f.** As such, the plurality of control apparatuses can perform different test sequences on DUTs by flexibly and simply changing the topology data without rearranging the hardware configuration (*see* e.g., paragraph [0025] of published Specification).

In contrast, Bristow fails to disclose a connection setting section connected with both *the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test modules.* In the Office Action dated October 12, 2006, the Examiner has asserted at page 5 that the test signal from pattern generator **165** is coupled through pin scrambling circuit **155** to T/Fs **150** and PE channels **145** to pins **115** on the DUTs. However, Applicant respectfully notes that the testing system of Bristow is configured to connect pin scrambling unit with only *a single* pattern generator (see Bristow, Figures 9 and 10). Therefore, the system of Bristow lacks at least a connection setting section connected with both *the plurality of control apparatuses and the plurality of test modules,* as required by independent claim 9.

In view of the above, Bristow fails to show or suggest all the limitations as required by independent claim 9, as amended. Thus, independent claim 9, as amended, is

patentable over Bristow. In addition, dependent claim 10 is also patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/106002).

Dated: February 12, 2007   Respectfully submitted,
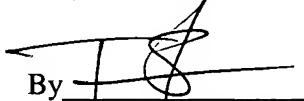
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Attachments